



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/647,806	08/25/2003	Rainer Gadow	4965-000159	2344
27572	7590	06/02/2004	EXAMINER	
HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C. P.O. BOX 828 BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48303			PAIK, SANG YEOP	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		3742		

DATE MAILED: 06/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/647,806	GADOW ET AL. <i>he</i>	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Sang Y Paik	3742	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/12/03, 8/25/03</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, there is no proper antecedent basis for “said ceramic bonding layer”.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 4, 5, 9-13, 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Martin et al (US 3,978,315).

Martin et al shows a ceramic cooktop with a cooktop (1) made of glass ceramic, an intermediate layer (2) made of a cermet material having a metal matrix of cobalt and a ceramic material including ceramic oxides, an insulating layer (3) made of cordierite, and a heat conductor layer (4). Martin et al further shows that the glass coating on the ceramic glass and the conductive layer are provided utilizing the known methods which would include spraying.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Martin et al (US 3,978,315) in view of Alexander (US 3,110,571) or Flaitz et al (US 4,764,341).

Martin et al shows the ceramic cooktop claimed except a ceramic bonding layer.

Alexander shows a ceramic bonding layer to bond a ceramic to a metal. Flaitz et al also shows a ceramic bonding layer to bond a ceramic substrate to a metallic layer. In view of Alexander or Flaitz et al, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to adapt Martin et al with a ceramic bonding layer to provide a ceramic bonding layer between a ceramic substrate and a metallic layer such as the cermet material to more securely bond such layers.

7. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Martin et al in view of Alexander or Flaitz et al as applied to claims above, and further in view of Strange (US 5,728,638).

Martin et al in view of Alexander or Flaitz et al shows the ceramic cooktop claimed except the intermediate layer is made titanium oxide.

Strange shows a cermet material having titanium oxide (titania). Strange shows that its cermet material provides a mechanically strong material with corrosion and wear resistance properties. In view of Strange, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to adapt Martin et al, as modified by Alexander or Flaitz et al, with the intermediate layer made

Art Unit: 3742

with titania to provide a mechanically strong material that also has corrosion and wear resistance properties.

8. Claims 6-8 and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Martin et al (US 3,978,315) in view of Strange et al (US 5,728,638) or Rousset et al (US 5,462,903) or Howard et al (US 5,227,345).

Martin et al shows the ceramic cooktop claimed except providing the cermet material containing a metal matrix of nickel, cobalt and chromium and the carbide particles such as tungsten carbides or chromium carbides.

Strange et al shows a cermet material including the metal matrix of nickel, chromium and cobalt and the ceramic oxides such as silica or alumina along with the oxide or carbide form of chromium. Strange et al also shows that tungsten is included in the cermet material.

Rousset et al also shows a cermet material including the metal matrix of nickel, chromium and cobalt and the ceramic oxides such as alumina. Rousset et al teaches that such as composite cermet material produces a mechanical and thermal resistance when exposed to a high temperature.

Howard et al also shows a cermet material including the metal matrix of nickel, chromium and cobalt with the ceramic materials in that are in the form of oxides, nitrides or carbides. Howard et al further shows it is known in the art that tungsten carbide and chromium carbides are used with cobalt or nickel to make a cermet material.

In view of Strange et al, Rousset et al or Howard et al, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to adapt the intermediate layer of Martin et al with the cermet material

Art Unit: 3742

nickel, cobalt and chromium with chromium carbide or tungsten carbide to improve the corrosion or wear resistance when exposed to a high temperature.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sang Y Paik whose telephone number is 703-308-1147. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (6:30-4:00) First Friday Off.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Sang Y Paik
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3742

SYP

syp